ANCIENT EGYPT

1929. MARCH. PART I.

CONTENTS.

1. THE SHEPHERD KINGS IN PALESTINE.
FLINDERS PETRIE.

2. A PORTRAIT HEAD OF SENUSERT III.
R. ENGELBACH AND ISMAIL SHEHAB.

3. THE CERASTES IN ROYAL NAMES.
M. A. MURRAY.

4. REVIEWS.

5. JOURNALS.
ANNALES DU SERVICE.
SYRIA.
REVUE DE L'ÉGYPTE ANCIENNE.
ARCHIV ORIENTÁLNÍ.

6. NOTES AND NEWS.

EDITOR, PROF. SIR FLINDERS PETRIE, F.R.S., F.B.A.

YEARLY, 7s. POST FREE. QUARTERLY PART, 2s.

BRITISH SCHOOL OF ARCHAEOLOGY IN EGYPT.

MACMILLAN AND CO., LONDON
AND NEW YORK.

ANCIENT EGYPT. Net price of each number from booksellers is 2*s*.

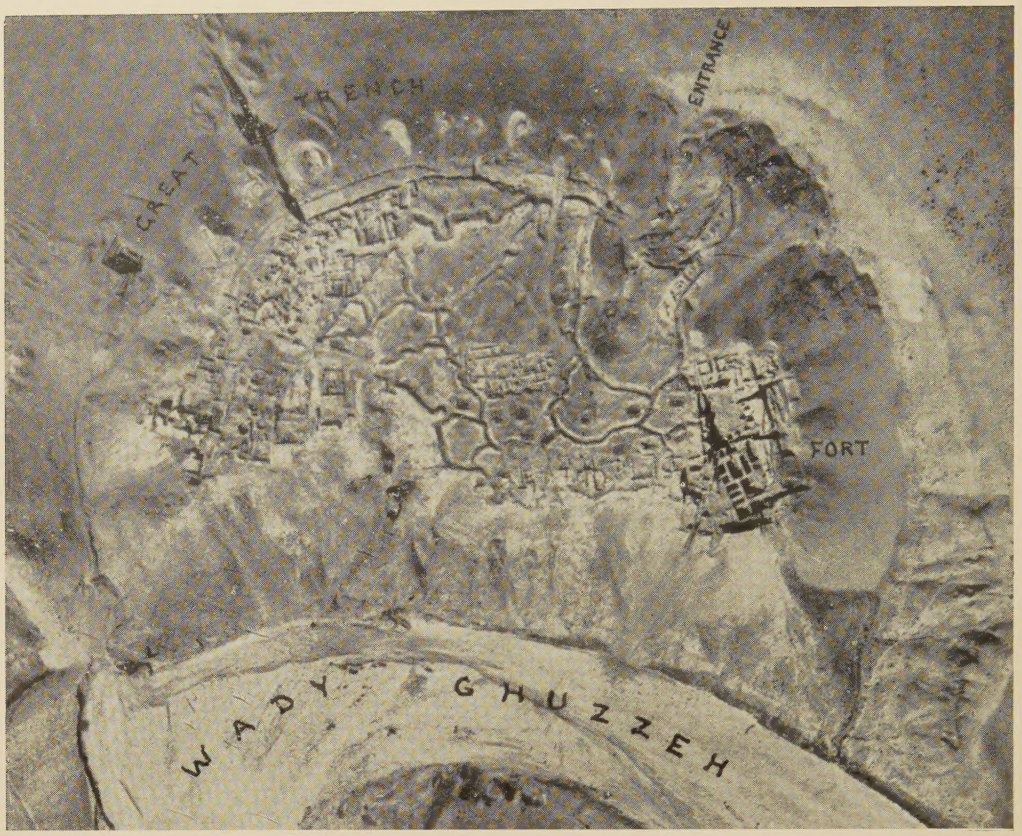
Subscriptions for the four quarterly parts, prepaid, post free, 7*s*., or 2 dollars, are received by Hon. Sec. "Ancient Egypt" (H. Petrie), University College, Gower Street, London, W.C. 1.

Books for review, papers offered for insertion, or news, should be addressed:—

Editor of "Ancient Egypt,"
University College, Gower Street, London, W.C. 1.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2025

https://archive.org/details/ancient-egypt-and-the-east_1929-03_part-1



1. BETH-PELET. WEST AT TOP, WADY GHUZZEH BELOW.
Devious Lines on Hill Top are Military Trenches. Excavated Fort at right.
(Royal Air Force, Official. Crown Copyright reserved.)

2. BETH-PELET FROM SOUTH-WEST.

THE SHEPHERD KINGS IN PALESTINE.

EXCAVATIONS AT BETH-PELET, II.

THE excavations of the past winter at Beth-pelet have produced valuable results in Egyptian history, by providing evidence of the culture and the political power of the Hyksos. These Shepherd Kings, the kin of Abraham, though nomads, had a considerable civilisation, just as at present the Bedawy have beautiful embroidery and metal work, though often compelled to shift their quarters by varying rainfall. The map in our last number shows how Beth-pelet lies in the half-arid wilderness of the south country. It was, however, strongly held, as it commanded the most southern pasture on the way to Egypt.

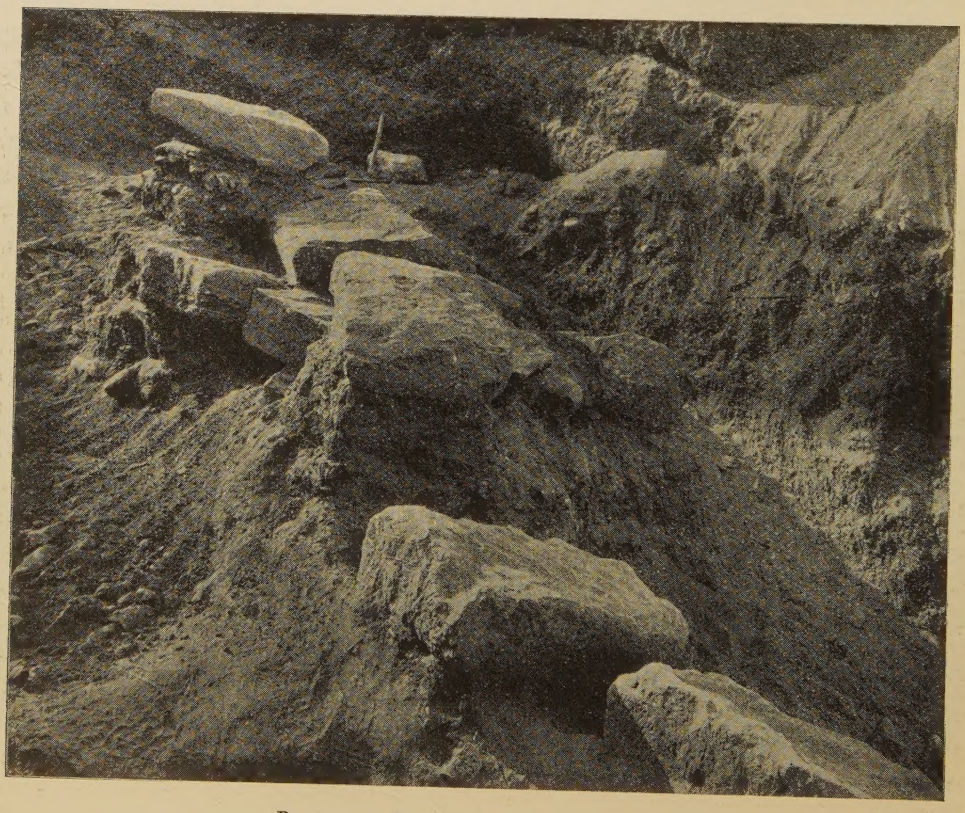
The Hyksos mode of defence was first found in Egypt when I worked at Tell Yehudiyeh and also at Heliopolis. It was not by stone or brick walling, but by great earthworks; as such, it has been already compared by Dr. Albright with the North Syrian forts and the earth forts of Central Asia. In Egypt we found square enclosures with rounded corners. The best example, at Tell Yehudiyeh, had the outer face steeply sloping, and covered with white stucco, so that it would be impossible to gain foothold on it without cutting steps.

The same principle of defence has now been traced at Beth-pelet, where it was adapted to a hill fort, trusting to steep glacis slopes, on which no approach was possible. A hill was chosen having on the east a precipitous face to the stream course of the Wady Ghuzzeh (*see* Fig. 1). At each end, a slight natural ravine of drainage was deepened and lengthened, until it curved around the end of the hill, with smoothly cut sides, different from the usual row of drainage gullies. At the back of the hill, where a gentle slope on the west united it to the general plain, a wide trench was dug, 80 ft. across, which joined the heads of the north and south ravines. Thus the whole hill was isolated by inaccessible slopes (Fig. 2).

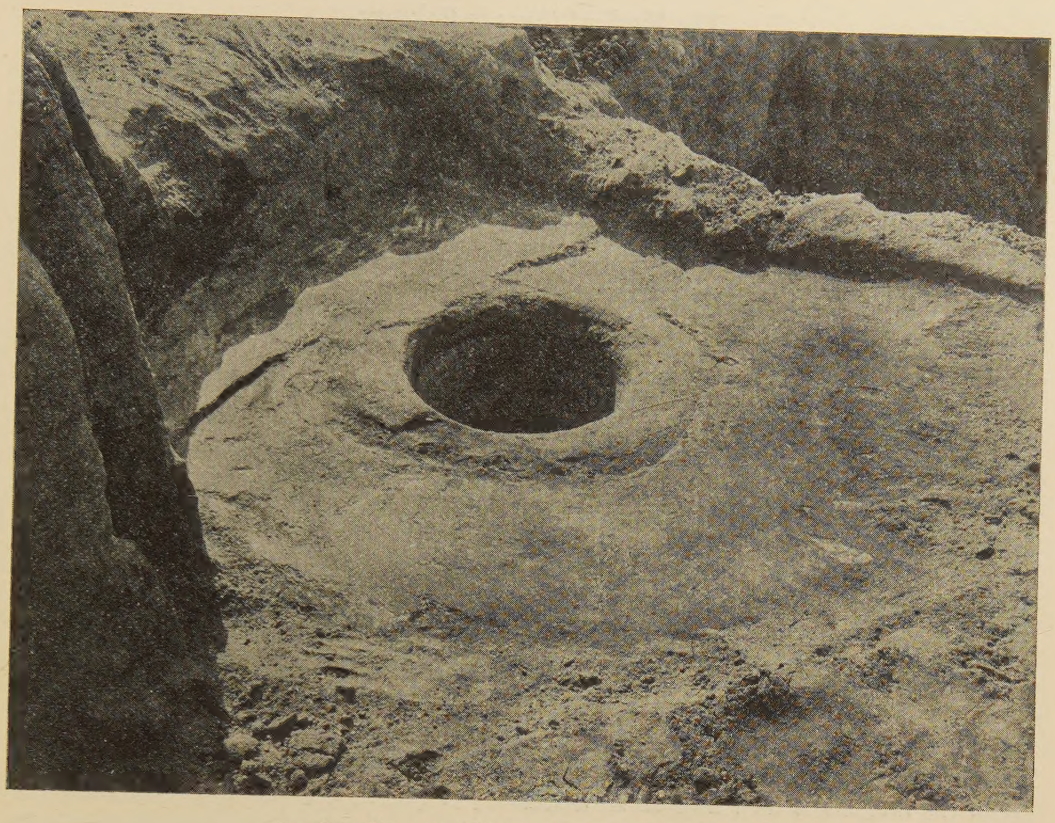
This huge western trench had on the outer side a slope of 40^0, 28 ft. long. This slope dropped at the bottom into a ditch 7 ft. deep. Thus any attacker, on slipping down the slope, would fall into the ditch and be easily overwhelmed by stones rolled down the inner slope. On the side of the fort, the ascending slope was of 34^0, too steep to stand or crawl upon, and rose up 62 ft. toward the fort. At the top of this slope was the fort bank of marl, rising 15 ft. above the dwellings within, and capped by a breastwork wall, so that the defenders could rake the marl slope and the trench below it.

The deep ditch below the slope is now buried under 35 ft. of sand dune, piled up against the fort mound. It was only in trenching the sand in search of any tombs, that the hard ground was found to descend amazingly; on carrying the cutting forward up to the fort, the nature of the defence came to light. In order to test the matter, another large cutting was made at the head of the southern ravine; this uncovered the similar slopes and the ditch between them.

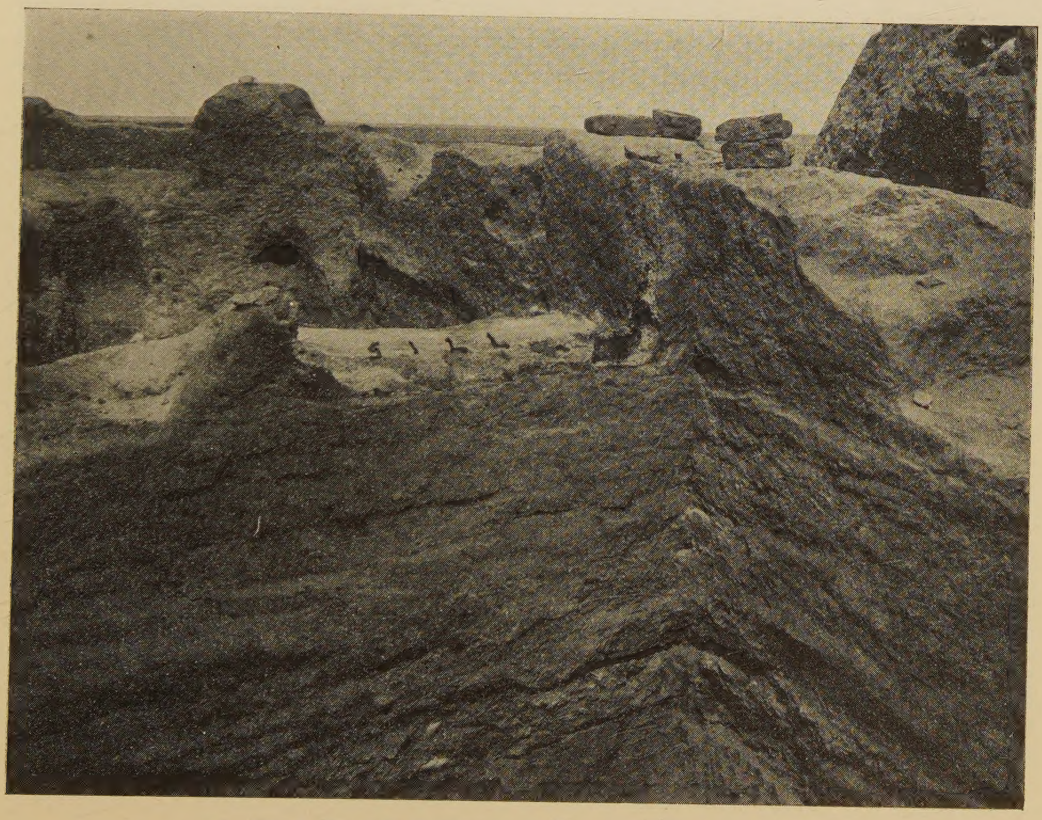
3. Entrance Valley from West; Gate Sill half-way.



4. Blocks of Gate Sill, from North-West.



5. Fire Bowl in XVIIIth Dynasty Residency.



6. Door Sill and Foundation Walls, XVIIIth Dynasty.

There had been an earlier fortress wall, probably of the XIIth dynasty, which was buried in the Hyksos marl wall. But the makers of the great trench, which is so much like the work at Yehudiyeh, were doubtless the Hyksos whose tombs we uncovered in the plain below.

The great trench fell into disuse at the conquest by the Egyptians, who built a stout wall of defence above the Hyksos bank. The sand blew into the ditch, and covered the foot of the slopes. Then the steep face of marl offered a convenient place for Egyptian tombs. These were crowded together, and are dated by scarabs and vases of the XVIIIth dynasty.

The whole hill top thus fortified was about 120 ft. above the stream, about 700 ft. long, and half that distance across at the widest. At present the top area is about three and a half acres. The access to it was carefully guarded. The northern ravine was lengthened out to 500 ft., curling round the end of the hill and sloping upward at the north-west (Fig. 3). This approach was cut as a narrow passage between faces of native marl and, diagonally across it, a gateway was placed (Fig. 4). Thus only a few feet were left between the side of the passage and the skew gate, to render it impossible to use a battering-ram, or to bring many men to bear on the gate Also the space was so narrow that stones if rolled down the slope would be certain to crush any one attacking the gate. This gateway is between the end of the west wall and the end of the north wall, so probably the wall was continuous, and ran above the gate. This form of the built gate and walls was a later work than that of the Hyksos, but no doubt the ravine was their original entrance.

The earliest building upon the hill was of about the XIIth dynasty, as shown by a scarab, and in the small area that we reached at 45 ft. down there are three building levels below the deep foundations of the Residency of the XVIIIth dynasty. Time did not allow of extending this deep work in the present season.

Within the fortress stood the Residency of the XVIIIth and XIXth dynasties, which is dated by the pottery; it was a stout block of building, 81 ft. from east to west, and over 70 ft. across. The outer wall was 6 to 7 ft. thick, and the inner walls 4 to 5 ft. The construction differs from that of other Egyptian buildings; the foundations, sunk to varying depths of 2 to 10 ft., were all of brickwork, well laid. But above the floors only a small part was of brick, and most of the internal walls were of rammed earth, covered with an inch of plaster. This may have been only a reconstruction after partial demolition. There was, later, a great destruction of all the walls by fire, so fierce that it fused some of the pottery. As this follows on the XIXth dynasty, it seems to be due to the conquest by the Israelites of whom it is often recorded that they "burnt the city with fire." That the lower brickwork was only a foundation is proved by the absence of doorways (Fig. 6). After the burning, the building was somewhat repaired by restoring the entrance wall in different brick, and out of line, also placing some thin cross-walls over the ashes. The floor levels were at 368 ft. 2 ins. to 369 ft. 7 ins.

The building was planned with the entrance at the east end of the south face, approached by a flight of five steps. These led up to a porch, 13 × 5 ft., which covered the doorway. This porch was paved with a hard cement of crushed shells; the opening being at the south-east corner, yet facing the west, checked any draught from blowing in. The first room was 13 ft. square, and led into a hall along the east side, 23 × 13 ft.; at the north end of this was a lobby, and steps at the south-east corner led up to the roof. From the hall there opened a central court, 30 × 22 ft.; this, like other parts, was roofed with cedar beams. The court was surrounded by chambers on

7. Portico of Israelite Period.
B, *C*, Door Jambs; *A*, *D*, Column Bases

8. Great Wall of Shishak, Ist. *B* = Base.
Lining Wall, 2nd, on Ash Bed.

the three other sides, and in the south-west corner was another stairway to the roof. At the side of a northern door lay a recess, in which was a circular fire-pit in the floor, all well lined with cement (Fig. 5).

The doorways were of two types. The main doors had posts five inches square, erected before the brickwork which was built against them. Lesser doors were fixed by a fillet of wood of about half of that size, let into the plastering. The roof was carried by large cedar beams, of which a few unburnt portions remained in the midst of the charcoal. The covering was of mud plaster, doubtless faced outside with stucco.

The whole building had been thoroughly rifled. The only remains were a jar of sulphur (probably from a mine near by, still worked), and close to it the burnt fragments of a large wooden box; this had been veneered with ivory, on fragments of which are engraved scenes. All of this was encased by us in paraffin wax, for transport, and it may be possible to make some reconstruction of it. The box had contained masses of colour, yellow, red and malachite green.

After the destruction of this Residency there was a partial restoration as mentioned, but no considerable building succeeded it for a long time. The burnt walls crumbled down, and the level of the hill rose with ruins some 5 ft. deep. Then followed some much poorer building, laid on cobble-stone foundations a foot thick. The pavings of this were at about 375 ft. level. The main part which we uncovered was a portico, but it had no relation to the older buildings. It faced north, with a doorway flanked by dwarf walls, each bearing a column. The doorway led out to a paved area, irregularly laid. This portico was 24 ft. long and 9 ft. deep, and apparently adjoined another building at a higher level to the south of it. This should, by its level, have belonged to the Pelethites of David's time, and if, as we suppose, they were a body of nomad mercenaries, it is not to be expected that they would have required any substantial buildings like the Egyptians. A great bed of ashes, up to 9 ft. thick, which overlay most of the northern end of the site, pointed to some centuries of slovenly occupation, when rubbish was left to accumulate. Flint flaking was then in use, and a shoal of fragments and bad flakes was thrown into an old corn pit, at about the close of this ash-bed occupation.

After some 7 ft. of rubbish and poor building had raised the mound, there came an entire reconstruction in fine Egyptian style. The pottery immediately underlying it belongs to about 1100 B.C.; the foundations are sunk deep, and laid in clean sand, which is also between the bricks, like the buildings of Shishak at Gerar, 930 B.C.; it cannot be doubted that this is the period of this new Egyptian occupation. The floors are at 382 ft. level.

The great feature of this age was an immense wall of yellow bricks, which remains along the northern end (Fig. 8). This doubtless extended round to the north-west gateway, above which similar walling exists. But the wall along the western side seems to have been earlier, as the bricks are of redder clay, and of lesser size, like those of Gerar in the XXth dynasty. The great wall on the north is 16 to 17 ft. thick, still standing 9 ft. above the floor level, and sunk 8 ft. below the floor level into the ash bed. With such a thickness it was probably 30 or 40 ft. high. On the inner side it was widened by a lining wall above the floor level, 6 ft. thick, thus making a platform 23 ft. wide for defence, on the top of the steep north slope.

Within this fortification was the Residency of Shishak, a block of building with yellow bricks like those of the great wall. It was 35×56 ft. outside, with an annex extending it to 84 ft. long. It had a central court, 31×14 ft., with a dozen

9. Fort of Vespasian. Loose Blocks in Gateway.

10. Roman House. Hall of Columns in Distance.

rooms around it. In the brickwork of the flooring were two ivory figures of Hathor like those of the XXIInd dynasty from Gerar; with these was a figure with pointed cap, as illustrated in our last number.

After the great building of Shishak there was no general reconstruction till the Roman age. The great activity of Psamtek at Gerar seems to have sufficed for this region, as his defence was against the Scythians at Askelon, rather than against the south country. There was continued occupation of the place up to about 390 ft. level, as shown by the top of a large corn pit which was filled with pottery of about 600 B.C.; the buildings of this period, however, were small and insignificant, based at between 390 and 393 ft. level.

Some time before the Roman age, there existed an important building, of which many blocks were found scattered and re-used at both ends of the hill and near the middle. These blocks were of well squared local sandstone, covered with very fine white stucco, which has perfectly survived except where bruised by heavy blows. The walls were 16 ins. thick. Where the site of the building stood, and the date of it, are quite unknown. We hope to make some search for it next year.

The Roman period of building is distinguished by large numbers of the Judaean coins of Nero, in fresh condition. After these there is one coin of Antoninus of Gaza, but none of the IIIrd century, or of the Constantine or Justinian families which are so usual elsewhere. The activity here does not seem to have extended to the second century, and was mostly about 70 A.D.; it was therefore due to the Jewish war of Vespasian.

The squared stone of the fort had been almost entirely removed, down to the cobble stone foundations (Fig. 9). From these it appears to have been 66 ft. east to west, and 52 ft. across. An open court was against the north wall, 35 × 20 ft., with nine or ten rooms against the other three sides of it. The outer wall was probably 4 ft. thick. A floor remained at 397 ft. 5 ins. level; the cobble foundations sank in the mound to 391 ft., and on the south of the fort to 388 ft., thus cutting through the buildings of Greek age. West of the north end the ground sank lower, and the Roman buildings were cut into the side of the older mound, with a floor at 379 ft. level. A hall, here, has two columns built of sandstone drums, covered with stucco: this is inferior to the finely stuccoed blocks of the unknown building, which were brought here for reconstruction. In slight hollows of the floor there were three groups of Judaean copper coins of Nero.

The top of the hill was covered with cobble and mud buildings of the Roman age. Two of the houses which we cleared (Fig. 10) may be noted as examples. One was 48 × 46 ft. over all. A great gate on the south led into an entry court, 17 × 14 ft.; next came a hall 19 × 12 ft., then a court 21 × 14 ft. with a tank; seven side-chambers opened on these courts. The other house was 40 × 38 ft. over all, with similar rooms, and a bath-room 10 × 6½ ft. with cistern.

A great work of Roman age is the revetment at the foot of the hill, built to prevent the stream from washing away the cliff. Though this has been heavily plundered for squared stone, it still fulfils its purpose; recently the flood has cut in behind the south end, and it may eventually be isolated in the Wady, with the soil behind it washed out. It is between 20 and 31 ft. thick and 300 ft. long. The face was all of large squared blocks of sandstone; exposed courses have been carried off, but later burrowing by the stream has uncovered two more courses below, without reaching the base. The body of it is of rough sandstone blocks, all set in hard lime mortar. In this I succeeded in finding a piece of ribbed jar like that of the Ist century. No doubt, therefore, the construction was part of the large work of Vespasian.

11. Hyksos Pottery. Tomb 550.

12. Interior of Tomb 550.

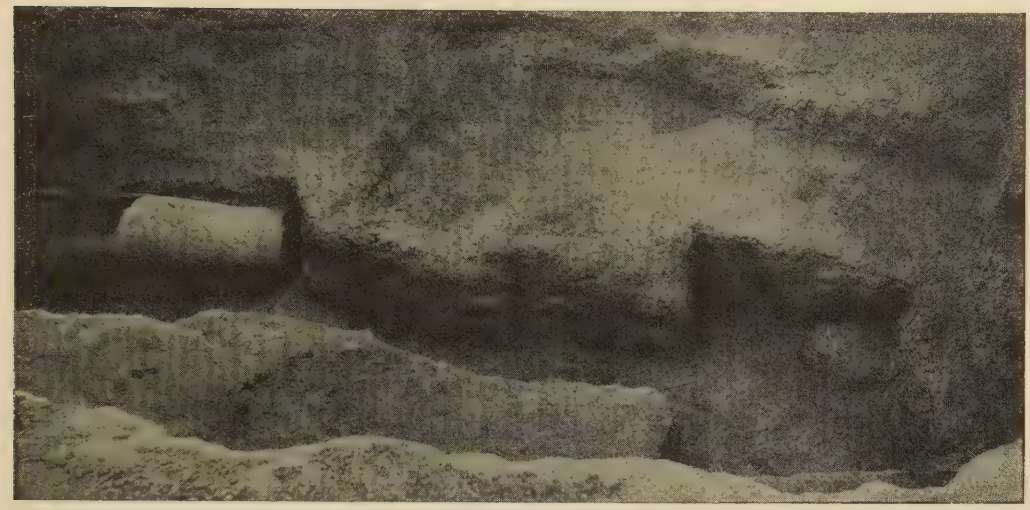
The CEMETERIES occupied the greater part of the labour this year. The whole ground has been more or less covered with blown sand, arrested by the rise of the hill. It buried the cemetery area up to as much as 8 ft. deep. This greatly increased the labour of finding the tombs, as the whole surface must be bared before search trenches can be cut, to distinguish soft places where tombs have collapsed. The area of cemeteries extends for about a quarter of a mile from the hill, along the north and west sides.

The cemetery of most historic value is that of the Hyksos period, unmistakeably dated by the abundance of Hyksos scarabs and a peculiar type of tomb. This year, part of the ground could be worked, and next year the rotation of crop and fallow will allow of the rest of the cemetery being cleared. Nearly fifty tombs have been found, half of which contained scarabs and pottery, which yielded relative dating. It is thus possible to put some twenty tombs into their order of sequence by the changes in the scarab types. At first there is the nearest resemblance to Egyptian work, and good scroll borders. This fine work fades out, animal figures begin, then twist patterns, and coarse mechanical designs. Following such an order, we find in the first half of the series a continual increase in forms of pottery, in the second half only a disappearance of types. This marks a continuous life, followed by a decadence. For distinction we will here letter this order of tombs from *A* to *X*. *A* has the nearest affinity to the Middle Kingdom style. *B* has the name of a new Hyksos king, Maot-neb-ra, the same name as the later king Amenhetep III. The tomb *D* has a scarab of a very well-known Hyksos king, Maot-ab-ra. Neither of these kings are among the six great Hyksos kings who formed the XVth dynasty, nor are these scarabs like those earlier ones. Our list therefore does not begin till the XVIth dynasty. Other tombs follow, with increase of pottery types down to *N*. At that point a decrease of types sets in, either marking a change in the dynasty or the beginning of the XVIIth dynasty.

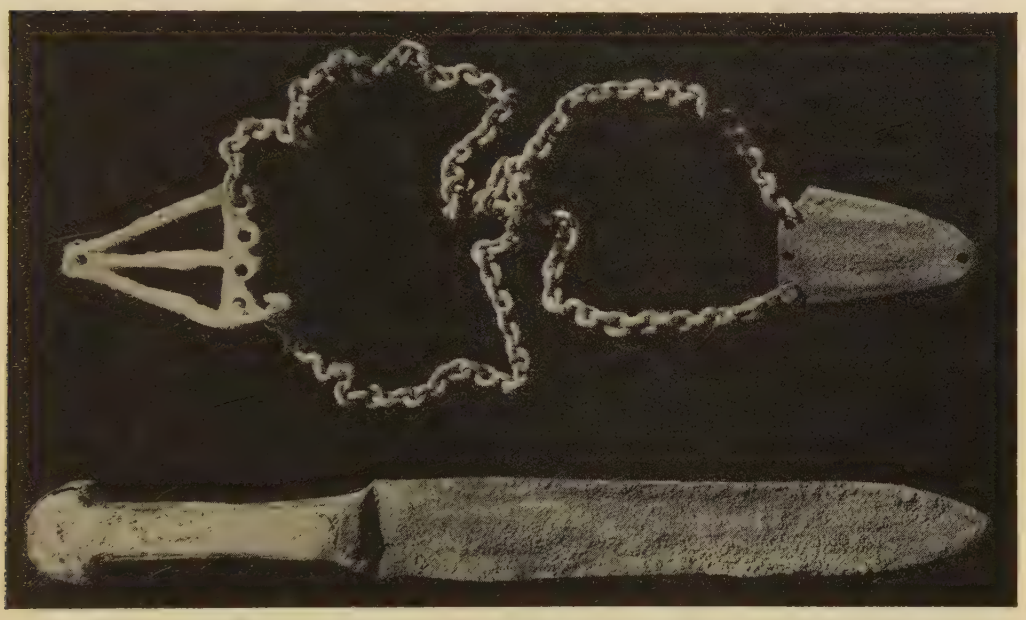
Now the most important matter is that at R, after the decadence had begun, there occurs a scarab of the well-known vezier Har or Hal. There are plenty of his scarabs from Egypt (a dozen in University College) and this scarab is of the same design; but three variants in forms of hieroglyphs mark it as of Palestinian work. The *ha* plant has the three stems radiating from a centre instead of rising from a flat base; the *nt* crown has a triangular body, more like the primitive form; and the *mr* sign is like a twisted whip. The conclusion from these scarabs is that Har was vezier over both Palestine and Egypt, and that therefore, as late as the middle or end of the XVIth dynasty, there was a united rule of a single Hyksos king over both countries. This is the first piece of political information which shows how long the Hyksos supremacy was effective, and disposes of the frequent assertion that they were only a herd of local rulers who were contemporary. The nature of the variants of the signs shows that the engraver knew their origins, and was not blindly copying them. The scarab was made to order, with its full meaning, and was not an ignorant transcript. A striking fact is that the god most usually represented on these scarabs is Ra, throughout this Hyksos age. It reflects on the veracity of Hatshepsut in saying that the Hyksos "knew not Ra."

There are many small glazed vases for *kohl* during the earlier half of this period; also daggers both of the triangular blade without a tang, and with the Cypriote long tang. The pottery is abundant, thin, and finely formed, of nobler grace than any of later times (Fig. 11). As many as twenty varieties are found in some of the tombs. The very large jars without handles belong to the earlier half of the period.

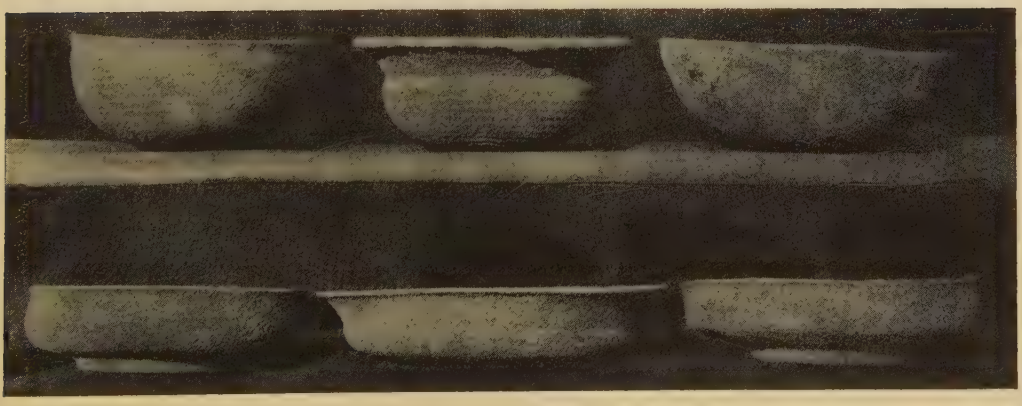
The tombs, cut in the hard marl, have a steep stairway descending to a small entrance, which was blocked with a slab of stone or several stones. This led in a few



13. Philistine Tomb 552.



14. Dagger and Chain, XIIth Century B.C.



15. Copper Bowls, XIIth–VIIIth Centuries B.C.

early instances to a single chamber, but usually to a bi-lobate chamber, divided by a pier of marl which approached the doorway, so as to support the roof (Fig. 12). The bodies lay on the ground, stretched at length, but with the legs irregularly placed. Most of the tombs had been robbed anciently; but in quite undisturbed tombs there was scarcely any goldwork.

To this type of tomb there succeeded a single domed chamber, with a sunk gangway between the benches on three sides, upon which the bodies and offerings were placed (Fig. 13). Eight bodies and two dozen scarabs were found in this, dating from Amenhetep III to Ramessu II, mostly of Palestinian work. The most interesting of these had a vigorous figure of the Syrian horned god, with a long streamer hanging from his peaked crown; with a spear he is striking the tail of a gigantic uraeus, which he grasps in the other hand. This seems to symbolize the triumph of Syria over the royal serpent of Egypt, and is a memorial of the downfall under Akhenaten. There were also some vases of purely Aegean pottery. This tomb had been cut in the lower part of the great glacis on the west of the city.

The bench type of tomb continued to develope in the XIXth dynasty. The gangway was widened at the entrance of the chamber; next, a double widening appears, and lastly the gangway was prolonged, to enter a smaller chamber at the back of the first chamber. At this stage the coarse pottery coffins came into use. There are six types of pottery which ran through from the Hyksos period, but only in single examples; in general, there was a sharp change, and the few exceptions may be due to re-use of an old pot. Painted Philistine pottery occurs in these tombs, some in surprisingly fresh condition, better than any known elsewhere. The usual motive is the swan preening the wing. Large quantities of plain pottery are found; in one tomb were no less than eighty vessels, of fifty-eight different varieties. The large number of skeletons found in some tombs, half a dozen or a dozen, show that they were family vaults, in use during several generations.

In this Ramesside period, iron daggers and knives occur along with bronze (Fig. 14); one steel dagger has a cast bronze handle. In one tomb a Cypriote dagger with long tang, like those of the XIXth dynasty, occurs with a bronze or copper bowl, having a flat base. These bowls are found in other tombs later, and led on to the round-based bowls of about the XXIInd or XXIIIrd dynasty (Fig. 15). A round-based bowl with flaring flange is thickly cast, and accompanies a wine-strainer and long dipper; these might be supposed to be Pompeian by the form and decoration, but the early age is exemplified by the same forms appearing in an Etruscan tomb-painting of about the XXVIth dynasty. Probably in both ages these types were borrowed from Persia.

Of later times there are many tombs of Greek age, but without any painted vases, although fragments of such are found in the town. There were probably monuments of limestone over the tombs, as in the cemetery is a large kiln, much burnt. The pieces of stone found in it did not bear any sculpture.

In yet another way the season has been most fruitful. Our work boys, on seeing that we rewarded finding a flint pick in the work, began to hunt for such in the Wady. When the work-hours were short in Ramadan the boys hunted in the afternoon, and soon there were daily collections by more than thirty hunters, including some men. They came and sat in a row with their gatherings before them, to be selected. In a short time we had over two thousand in the store-room, a stack in the courtyard, and banks of rejected ones outside our walls, among which were many partly worked.

16. MOST WORN OVATES AND PICKS.

17. TWO HANDED PICKS.

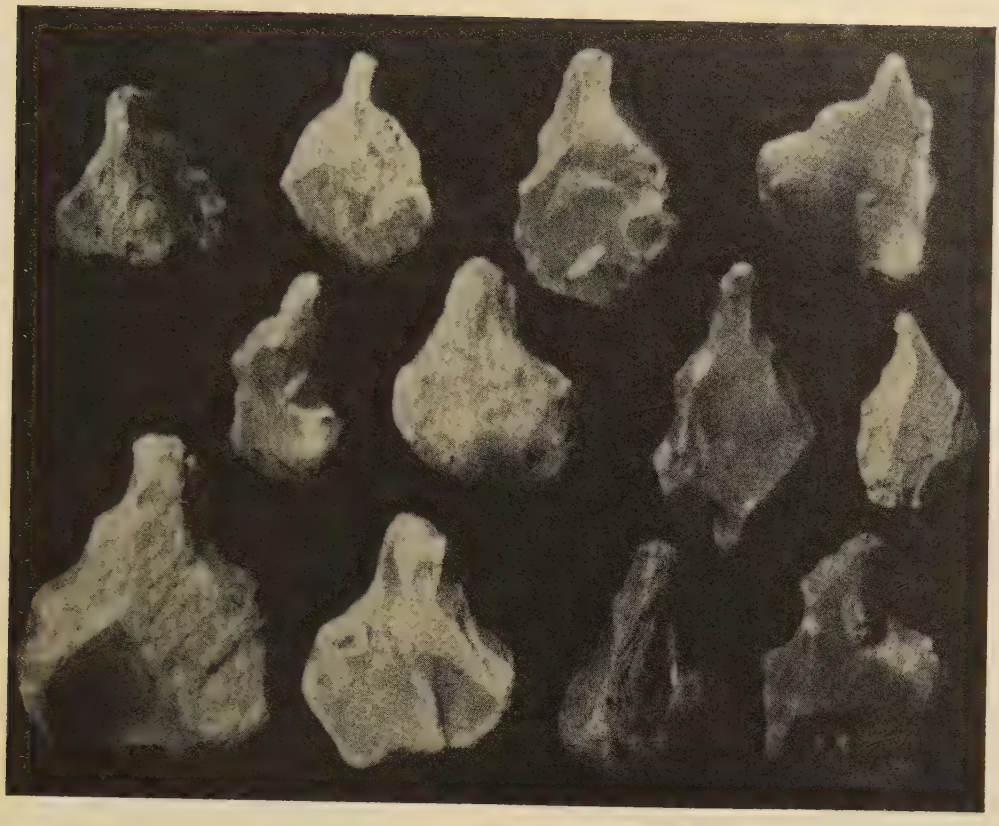
In order to wield such a mass, it was necessary to select closely and, to do that, some classification was needed. In the general appearance there was no sign that these flints had ever been bedded in gravel after being worked, there was no staining, and rarely any white patination. There seems no reason to doubt that workers dropped them in and around the valley, they were washed down into the stream, and rolled there until they were picked out for us. In this case, the amount of effacement is some indication of relative age. On selecting the most effaced, on which the flaked surfaces had been almost destroyed, they proved to be triangular picks and ovates of the rudest types (Fig. 16). The purpose of the pick and " rostro-carinate " appears to have been for root-grubbing, which provided the only vegetable food during winter. The ovates with a fairly sharp edge may well have been for cutting green food in summer. The " rostro " flints are of very rude form here, and from their resemblance to a ness of land, we termed them " nesses." The largest picks have one face quite flat, and could only be grasped between two hands (Fig. 17). There is a large number of borers (Fig. 18), and these were further developed with natural ball ends to fit the palm of the hand; also with skew handles, so as to get a powerful drilling turn in work, some handles being quite flat on the top so as to apply a heavy pressure (Fig. 19).

Most primitive of all are flints picked up to bash or crush, and here called " bashers." Some of these are entirely natural flints, merely battered on one edge; others have been somewhat shaped to give a better edge for use. More advanced choppers are long and thin forms, with one edge battered. Heavy axes were also shaped, equally on both sides. The sliced flints (or Levallois flakes) have left many cores, known in Egypt as " donkeys' hoofs."

So far, we had encouraged the boys to bring in all they could from the rolled wady bed, where the relative position had no meaning; but one day there appeared flaked cores and adzes of early neolithic style, whitened by lime soil, and it was evident that a settlement had been tapped. Mr. Starkey, who generally looked after the flints, judiciously refused to give anything for these, but offered a couple of day's wages to the boy who would show us the site. Thus we gained the knowledge of many sites without encouraging their destruction. These could not be immediately worked, but one site (Sulmanieh) was well sampled through a depth of 3 ft. in recorded levels. Mr. Myers attended to this, and brought in many hundreds of microlith cores of dusky translucent flint and innumerable flakes. Such work seems to have survived till the late use of microliths in the working of very delicate lunate flakes, found in a Hyksos grave, presumably as barbs for arrows. The whole subject of the late use of palaeolithic and neolithic types is opened up by the various examples of historic age found this year.

Palestine is so rich a field for early sites of work that there are hundreds of such spots to be searched; and, in order to secure results of historic value, each group should be uniformly managed by a separate party. Just as Miss Garrod has taken the northern caves as her speciality, so each of the great wadys should be taken in hand by one body, in the same way as our School has taken up the Wady Ghuzzeh. Happily the requirement of systematic work is a principle with Mr. Richmond, who will not tolerate in Palestine the reckless exploiting which has ruined sites elsewhere.

In all the excavation here, the diggers search the earth and set aside every potsherd. These are reviewed carefully to see that no inscriptions escape us, and all pieces that are distinctive in date are marked with levels and preserved. The types are identified if possible with forms already known, which serve to give a date; these dates of each stratum are then reviewed, some are of older pottery that has survived, others are later



18. BORERS.

19. SKEW HANDLED BORERS.

due to disturbance of soil, but a majority hold together and serve to show the general period of a level. This, in turn, can then be dated more precisely by movements in history already known. Other kinds of objects are also characteristic of period, but are not so frequent in every age as the pottery.

Happily, the selection for the Palestine Museum at Jerusalem is based upon the preservation of whole groups from tombs. These may be supplemented by examples of types which do not occur in large groups, in order to fill up the series of types. But it is the aim of the Director, Mr. Richmond, to weed out from the Museum all material that is not levelled or dated, whenever similar objects are procured in ascertained groups. Thus the collection will eventually be reliable as an historical view of all periods in Palestine.

On reviewing the whole season at Beth-pelet, it is clear that there is no other place yet known which is so promising for revealing more of Egyptian and patriarchal history during the dark period of the Hyksos dynasties. The cemetery of the XVth dynasty has yet to be found, also that of the XVIIIth dynasty, which was certainly important during the long and active reign of Tahutmes III. To continue work here is needful for the history of both Egypt and Palestine. The complete clearance of the Tell is far beyond English resources, as it would cost probably fifteen or twenty thousand pounds. Yet some search should be made for extensions of the Jewish stratum at the fort, and for the site of the fine sandstone building. It is difficult to know where to stop, but probably after another season here it would be more profitable to take a portion of another site. It is impossible in the next few centuries to work completely more than a few *per cent.* of all the Tells in the world which await us, and the revelation of history will be best carried out by taking a large sample from many sites. So long as a full record is published of all that is found, with plans, levels, and figures, it will always be open to future work to resume such researches, and carry them farther.

Our hope that a Palestine Museum on an effective scale may be founded in London has made us refrain from distributing the collection of the last three years, which lies in boxes at University College. This has cut off most of the support which we had from museums, and but for the zealous help of Sir Charles Marston our work could not have been carried out so successfully this season. It is hoped that, during the next few months, special donations will be sent in, so as to enable the researches of next season to be carried out on an adequate scale.

FLINDERS PETRIE.

A PORTRAIT HEAD OF SENUSERT III, FROM KARNAK.

SOME unexpected results were recently seen on taking a new photograph of the head of the red granite colossus of Senusert III, which now stands against a pilaster in a rather dark part of the entrance hall of the Cairo Museum. This head was originally published by Legrain in his *Statues de Rois et de Particuliers*, No. 42011; his photograph, shown in Fig. 1, which appears to have been taken in full daylight with ordinary plates, shows no trace of paint. The face, in fact, is perhaps less full of life than those of the other portraits known of this king.

FIG. 1.

FIG. 2.

Having had occasion to obtain a small photograph of the head of this colossus, to compare it with a collection of the portrait-heads of the XIIth dynasty in the Cairo Museum and elsewhere, an exposure of a quarter of an hour had to be given, since the Cairo Museum was not then supplied with means for efficiently lighting objects for photography. The plates used were panchromatic.

The varied sources of reflected light, in the second picture (Fig. 2), have given effect to the detail of the face, and render this a far more vital portrait. So much expression would not have been suspected on looking at the effect of the single top light in the first figure. Moreover the panchromatic plate has brought out the painting of the eyes, and this might be the portrait of a living man which one would recognize anywhere.

A close examination of the colossus clearly shows that the body, though of good work, is not comparable in technique with the head, and it seems likely that a special artist was employed to portray the royal features. It must be admitted that, in the present case, the artist was a master of his craft.

R. ENGELBACH.

ISMAIL SHEHAB.

THE CERASTES IN ROYAL NAMES.

It is customary to translate in names as the suffixed pronoun, which is undoubtedly correct wherever the corresponding feminine pronoun is used in the feminine form of the same name, as in Middle Kingdom names, e.g. and . In this paper the point to which I wish to draw attention is that in early names may be a noun, and is not necessarily the pronoun of the third person singular masculine. It would then be an ideogram or picture representing the creature whose name it bears.

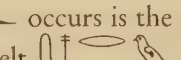
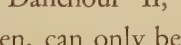
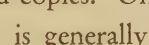
Whether that creature was the horned viper (*cerastes cornutus*) or the slug, or some other animal not yet identified, I am not prepared to say. It is entirely unlike either the viper or the slug; but for convenience of translation I use the word "viper" for the where I consider it to be a noun. If the is neither the viper nor the slug, the question arises as to what other animal it might be. The form of the "horns," even in the earliest example, is unlike any living creature; for in nature horns, unless palmate, are wide at the base and decrease gradually to the tip; whereas the horns of the are narrow at the base and widen to the tip. Palmate horns belong to animals of snowy regions and therefore need not be considered here. The earliest representation of the is on a carved ivory knife-handle of the prehistoric period. This shows an animal definitely reptilian, in all probability a snake. The parallel groups from Mesopotamia and India are clearly of snakes (*Anc. Eg.* 1917, 33). The only example of the creature in natural position is the painting at Drah Abu'l Neggeh, where it is climbing a lotus stem and is certainly a slug. As the XVIIIth dynasty is too late to be of any value in determining the real meaning of any object represented, this can only be accepted as showing what the artists of the New Kingdom believed the creature to be. The is quite unlike the horned viper, whose horns are set immediately above the eyes, are almost as fine as antennae, and curve forwards. The ancient Egyptian knew the viper perfectly, for its characteristic attitude in repose is reproduced in the hieroglyph which determines any word for snake .

The sign shows the reptile lying on the ground, not coiled like so many snakes, but arranged in a zigzag. When roused it can straighten itself with lightning rapidity, lashing out in any direction to an incredible distance, and so reaching its unsuspecting prey. When about to bite, the viper opens its mouth so wide as to appear almost to split the head across; this is done to disengage the long sickle-shaped poison-fangs, which lie folded back on each side of the mouth when not in use. The gaping mouth, the gigantic fangs, and the lashing movement combine to make a more terrifying effect than the cobra's spread hood. Viper poison, though as deadly as that of the cobra, is longer in action; if immediate measures can be taken, death may be averted; on the other hand, if the poison is not counteracted or removed, the resultant consequences are agonising, in which respect the poison again differs from the cobra's. Such a creature would naturally impress the minds of a primitive people, like the Egyptians were when hieroglyphs were first introduced; yet the representation of the viper does not occur except as the above-mentioned determinative, where its peculiar attitude is depicted. The gentle little would hardly express the feeling of the ancient Egyptians to so savage and dramatic a creature as the viper, especially when they were capable of drawing the other deadly snake, the cobra, in its characteristic form; they even raised it to the rank of a deity, and used the sign as an emblem of divinity. Had this been a pictorial representation of the viper, the wide open mouth and the great poison-fangs would have struck the imagination of the artist rather than the inconspicuous horns.

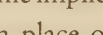
The horns of the , in early inscriptions, approximate so closely in form to the ears of the Seth-animal that it seems possible that the two creatures may be in some way related. The sign , like the sign of Seth, is either a highly conventionalised representation of a real animal or, more probably, a more or less exact copy of an artificial object. The arrow in the hindquarters of the Seth-animal developed very soon into a forked tail, which shows that though an object can be altered to a certain extent by ignorant artists the shape remains recognisable. It is therefore not likely that the fine pointed horns of *cerastes cornutus* could have been so changed, even in the prehistoric times, into the broad-tipped excrescences on the head of the . I do not attempt to identify the creature as yet, I only wish to point out that, as far as zoology takes us, there is no known creature which has the broad-tipped horns of the .

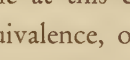
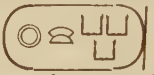
I now turn to the real subject of this paper. In treating of the royal names I take those of the early periods down to and including the Old Kingdom, using those of a later date for comparison only. In these I am concerned to show that the is a noun, not a pronoun. The form is always masculine, *fw* or shortened to *f*.

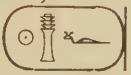
Early royal names fall into three categories: (1) A single noun, as Scorpion, Fish, Snake; (2) a participle, *Aha* "He who fights," *Zeser* "He who is holy"; (3) a short sentence in the *sdm-f* form, i.e. a verb and subject, as *Kha-sekhemui* "The two Powers appear." In no case is there a suffixed or even a dependent pronoun.

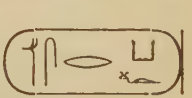
The earliest name in which occurs is the last King of the IIIrd dynasty, usually known as Snefru. The name is spelt  , , and ; all appear to be contemporary [*Note:* In Dahchour II, pp. 6, 13, the name is given as  ; here the , as written, can only be the phonetic complement; but both inscriptions appear to be hasty hand-copies. On p. 14 the name is given as without]. The form  is generally taken as a scribe's error, but this can hardly be the case as does not take the double phonetic complement at this period,

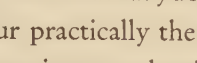
only the is written. If, however, the is a noun the name, whether written with or without it, would be in accordance with the customary forms, i.e. a participle alone, "He who is made happy," or a verb with a noun-subject, "The viper (*fw*) makes happy." The name is paralleled in the VIIIth dynasty, where a King is called "The *Ka* makes happy," the noun *ka* replacing *fw*.

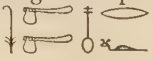
It is suggestive that the name of the immediate successor of Snefru (Snefer-fu) is Khu-fu. This is usually translated as though it read *Khu-f uy*, "He protects me," irrespective of the fact that the pronoun-subject has no antecedent, which is against the custom of all previous royal names. That the verb should be a participle used as adjectival predicate and the a dependent pronoun is very problematical as a construction for a royal name, which at this early time is always extremely simple and straightforward. If is taken as a noun, the name then falls into the same category as *Kha-Sekhemui*, i.e. a verb and its noun-subject, and would read "The viper (*fw*) protects." Parallel names are , where as the name belongs to a private person the cannot be a pronoun referring to a god's name implied; and  Khu-Sebek, which shows the same form with a god's name in place of . The group of names , , , , also give good sense when the is translated as a noun, "The viper of Ra (Horus, Khnum, or Khonsu) protects." It is noteworthy that in the Sinai inscriptions the form of the name is .

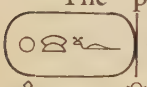
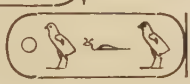
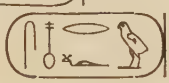
The position of the *F* in the name of Khafra is shown by the Greek transcription, Khephren; the usual translation of the name is "His appearance is Ra," or "His manifestation is that of Ra." This is hardly admissible; first, because it means nothing; secondly, because the grammar is too forced for a name at this early period; such a sentence would require the addition of the of equivalence, or of (cp. ). But taking as the noun, the sentence is translated "The viper of Ra appears," or "is manifest," which is not only a simple grammatical construction but has a definite meaning. Parallel royal names are of Senusert II "The form of Ra is manifest," and of Senusert III  "The *Kas* of Ra are manifest."

 "The viper of Ra endures" of the IVth dynasty is paralleled by "The *Ka* of Ra endures" of a rather later period, the noun *Ka* taking the place of the earlier , as in the Snefer-fu and Snefer-ka names.

Again, both "The *Ka* of the viper is glorious," and  "The *Ka* of the viper is strong," are paralleled by "The *Ka* of Ra is glorious" and "The *Ka* of Ra is strong." In both names the form with Ra is later than the form with ; yet the noun Ra obviously replaces the . It seems hardly likely therefore that the *F* can be a pronoun, which in these cases could only refer to the King; and even at his most arrogant, the Pharaoh never actually equated himself with the God, whose son he claimed to be. If the pronoun referred to the King, the change to Ra would be inexplicable, and would involve an entirely different religious outlook from what is known to have existed.

Private names also give some interesting results. On the tomb steles from the Royal Tombs at Abydos, there are several names compounded with , of which there are four practically the same,  . I suggest as a tentative rendering that the first two signs are the title, the last two the name "Gift of the viper" (cp. No. 9 "Gift of Neith"). I suggest also, though with some diffidence, that as (Nos. 63 and 104) is the name of a woman, the is not a pronoun referring to the bearer of the name; but if it is read "The viper is satisfied," the name falls into the same category as the other God-hetep names.

Among the clay-seals, No. 7 gives "The Horus, *Ka f*" as a name of King Zet. This can hardly mean "His *ka*," but "*Ka* of the viper" might be quite appropriate for the Snake-king. An ivory tablet of the reign of Qa, gives  "The King's axe-man," and as his name "Beautiful is the viper."

The private names of the Old Kingdom are perhaps more convincing.  cannot mean "He is Khafra," while the groups , , , , which have no corresponding feminine forms with feminine pronouns, can be paralleled by forms in which a god's name takes the place of . Another group is compounded of a god's or king's name with , which cannot read "His son is NN"; , , , , , yet these could quite well read "Son of the viper of NN" and would then be parallel with other Son-names. The group is also a large one, for besides the king there are , , ; , ,  ,  .

I suggest that these names show an early cult of a creature represented by the sign . It was not itself divine, in the Old Kingdom at any rate, but was closely allied with the Pharaoh and the dynastic gods. It probably belongs to the indigenous stratum of the population, to which the god Seth also belonged.

M. A. Murray.

REVIEWS.

Studies in Egyptian Chronology. By T. NICKLIN. Part I. 8vo, 74 pp., 1928 (Toulmin, Blackburn).

This work, though very full of suggestion, is entirely literary, and suffers from not being in touch with the contemporary monuments. The general principle here is to accept (with emendations) all the Manethonian dynasties, but to assume that there was great overlapping in the period between the XIIth and XVIIIth dynasties. Now it is useless to enter on details, if the results of such a treatment prove to be impossible. Can we ever suppose that any Egyptian kept a list of Palestine princes through all the smashing wars of Thothmes III and Sety I, and then foisted this in as a whole dynasty before the XVIIIth? The state of Palestine in those centuries makes this a hopeless supposition.

Another impossibility is supposing that the Egyptian history and Greek copies were kept in monumental script. They were on papyri, and the numerals must have been in the regular hieratic forms and in the Greek alphabetic numerals. All the emendations based on the cumbrous monumental script are beside the mark. A supposed proof is given where 39 and 31 are confounded; but in cursive Greek the big loop in front of *alpha* is much like *theta*, and a slight wear at the top would cause them to be interchanged in reading. We must think in cursive script if emendations are tried. Further evidence bearing on the problem has come to light this year. A long series of Hyksos tombs are found, of a debased and late style, and the pottery and scarabs of this series are entirely different from the pottery and scarabs of the neighbouring tombs of the XVIIIth and XIXth dynasties. The Hyksos age cannot have been contemporary with those dynasties.

After stating these facts, it seems needless to see in detail how the results in this book were produced. But one matter is so generally important that it should be noticed. Overlapping of periods is assumed to have been adopted by Manetho, on the ground of similar examples in other countries. Yet the fact is that, where we can test his work, we find him scrupulous to avoid overlapping. His Xth dynasty is carried to its close, and only a quarter of the known history of the XIth is allowed to follow it, as the rest was overlapped. The reign of Taharqa is cut short, because the rise of the XXVIth dynasty overlapped the rest of it. Further, the totals of the books agree with the whole length of the dynasties while, owing to petty corruption, these totals cannot have been remade later in all the three versions.

Whatever the original facts may have been, the mode of dealing with the Turin Papyrus and Manetho is impossible. To take a parallel supposition. Can we imagine any one in our day agreeing that George I lived in the Roman period, and filling up the time between with lists of colonial and Indian governors? The family traditions and

documents would make such an imposture incredible. So could any Egyptian in the XVIIIth dynasty tolerate the XIIth dynasty being put 1,700 years before him if it was only 200 years before? The interval must have been several centuries for the history to have been stretched out to 1,700 years without being detected. Some other solution must be found for the discrepancy between Manetho and the apparent results in other countries. The end is not yet.

The Sumerians. By C. Leonard Woolley. 8vo, 198 pp., 29 pls. (Oxford), 1928. 6*s.*

The change in our outlook in history since 1900 has been as great as the change in science. As last century ended, it was a common remark that we had gone so far that only details were left for us to elaborate. In science the whole structure of the atom, wireless, and the internal combustion engine, have changed our outlook as much as all the previous inventions of man. In history we thought we had reached the beginnings, when suddenly all our foundations gave way; in prehistoric Europe we realised that all we knew were but the spillings of bigger Asiatic cultures, Egypt provided two more civilisations before those we then knew, India produced a great pre-Aryan civilisation as old as that of any other land, and Iraq has furnished a glorious period of fine work among the Sumerian people, and shown that they had anticipated the best that later ages could execute.

In this volume there is an outline of this early age, tracing its conditions, its history, the social life, the public works, and an estimate of its effect on the history of the world. It would be out of place to attempt any criticism of so well-balanced a summary, and this will give the public the readable material to fit in to its general appreciation of the past. After being usually repelled hitherto by long arguments about the rendering of Sumerian names, it will be a relief to deal with the human facts without reference to the details of writing or reading. The most striking of the magnificent objects that Mr. Woolley has found are here well illustrated, beside some of the things already known. The production of such accounts as this, and those of Dr. MacIver, is doing an essential service in public education.

The last chapter touching on other countries may be open to remark. We are told of "the history and the art of a race which died out nearly four thousand years ago," but certainly the activities of the race long continued; in the Vth century B.C. the Sumerian was the great international trader, as testify the portrait heads found in Memphis, more numerous there than those of any other people. The "Babylonian merchant" was not the Semite but the Sumerian, true to his business instincts which founded modern commerce. Another dictum may be reconsidered, for there is no proved synchronism between Egypt and Babylonia before 1500 B.C. We need much more direct information before we can safely handle the difficulties of the chronology.

A Century of Exploration at Nineveh. By R. Campbell Thompson and R.W. Hutchinson. 8vo, 146 pp., 9 pls. (Luzac), 1929. 7*s.* 6*d.*

This book gives a collective view of the excavations and natural interests at Nineveh, the most effective plea for further work there. The record of fragmentary attempts, miserably financed, should make this country ashamed. Even on a capital site such as this, there has never been any systematic clearance worthy of its importance. The public indifference to historical research has pervaded and spoilt all our opportunities. By this time the glamour of Nineveh is like that of the kings of Rome;—a fascinatingly

distant view in our youth, which has suffered now by the greater interest of far more remote times. When we reach a familiarity with the early pre-historic period, Romulus and Menes seem too well known to stir our pulses.

The account of the early explorations, from Rich in 1820 onwards, is a record of the public exploiting of enthusiastic workers, who were always short of means and often in political difficulty. As this has been the same case in Egypt, Palestine, and elsewhere, the record is typical of public indifference, as guaged by public support. Half of the book is occupied with the account of excavations, by Layard, Rassam, George Smith, King, and the authors; a quarter is given to the modern state of the land, and a quarter to an outline of the history of the capital. The natives seem to be lower than the Palestine Bedawy or the Egyptian, in working power; they begin an hour after sunrise and stop an hour and a half before sunset, while the western work goes from sunrise to sunset without any difficulty. The wages seem to be much the same in both regions. By 1903, modern methods hardly reached work in Babylonia, as we read of slabs cracked by fire having to be reburied as hopeless. Now-a-days we should paraffin them and bring them away in sound condition. The interest of sculptures in the early days and, later, of tablets, has obscured the archaeology in all other directions, and great opportunities have been lost, as when Layard left behind ninety camel loads of steel picks, to be used up as metal by the Arabs. Boscawen said of excavators, " they dig for tablets like potatoes." Happily Dr. Campbell Thompson has an archaeological conscience, and it is to be hoped that he will get support for further work on this great historical site which he has so attractively described in this excellent outline.

JOURNALS.

Annales du Service des Antiquités. Tome XXVII.

GAUTHIER, H.—*Tombe d'époque Saïte à Heliopolis.* Beneath the village of Matarieh three stone-built tombs were found, one inscribed. This is for Uahabra " exalted," son of Hornekht and Thes-bast-peru. The term exalted, *thest,* is taken here as " porter," yet passages are quoted where it is used for " exalt." The title *thesi semsem* (No. 1432) clearly means a person exalted over the horses. Titles precede the personal name, so this term here is not a title. It seems to be a compound name, Exalting-Uahabra. Beside marginal texts, there is a large list of 60 offerings. The canopic jars have brief inscriptions (material not stated); the ushabtis are small with a short vertical name on the back. Many small amulets were found detached, some of which are figured as foundation deposits, though there is no hint of having reached a foundation; probably they are all amulets, and models of funerary vases in the style of the VIth dynasty.

LEFEBVRE, G.—*Stèle de l'an V de Méneptah.* This was found near Menuf (S.W. Delta) though wrongly published as of Athribis. For ten years it was neglected, then it was moved, and lost in a canal; now after thirty-five years it has been brought up to the Museum. It is of red granite, 11½ ft. high, and was 5 ft. wide, but nearly half the width has been lost. The neglect it has suffered has defaced it still more, since Maspero took an impression in 1882. It is inscribed on both sides: on one a hymn of triumph, on the other a recital of the numbers of slain of different western tribes, and of spoil taken.

EDGAR, C. C.—*Greek epitaph from Saqqarah.* Twelve lines " are packed with vague epithets " about Heras of Memphis, in guise of a conversation with the lion on the monument; the last four lines address the dead man.

GAILLARD, C.—*Animaux consacrés à la divinité de l'ancienne Lycopolis.* After describing the types, the Director of the Lyon Museum concludes that the animals preserved were a cross of the common dog and the small jackal. He declares that there is not in Egypt any proper wolf, nor black jackal, nor red fox.

CAPART, J.—*Fouille dans la nécropole de Héou.* A decorated stone tomb of one Pa-tahuti had been broken up by the natives, and only fragments were recovered. A scarab of Amti-sat, who was *uket* of the prince, was found near a pit in which were some remains of funeral models.

JÉQUIER, G.—*Fouilles ... de la nécropole Memphite.* This work was around the Mastabat-el-Faraoun. Small tombs of the latter part of the VIth dynasty were cleared; these show (as at Denderah) the disappearance of sculptured chambers, and, furthermore,

no trace of inscription outside. There are only blocks of brickwork, with one or two niches in the side, and a rough table of offerings at the niche. One good painted chamber is illustrated, that of Shay. The lower temple of Pepy II has been almost annihilated by the village near it; a few pieces of figures of foreigners, and a sphinx trampling on enemies, are all that remain. The avenue is almost all destroyed, some fragments of bearers of offerings from the nomes were found. The upper temple by the pyramid is fairly preserved; it is of the same type as those of the Vth dynasty. On one side is a small pyramid, without any shrine, and too small to receive anything but a coffin. As similar small pyramids occur near kings' pyramids, without any evidence of burial or funeral service, it is suggested that they served a special purpose in relation to the king. All along the avenue were found fragments of statues of buried enemies. In the ante-chamber was an infantile figure in alabaster, seated on the ground, wearing the uraeus, like an alabaster head in University College. Statuettes of officials belonging to the temple service, as late as the XIIth dynasty, were placed in the temple, which remained visible till the New Kingdom.

Saint-Paul Girard, L.—*Fragment de liturgie magique Copte.* This is a curious mixture of Gnostic and Christian invocation.

Lucas, A.—*Necklace of Queen Aahhetep.* This examination corrects the previous accounts about the materials. The red stone is carnelian, as all agree. The blue inlay is mostly lazuli, but some pieces show a conchoidal fracture which suggests glass. The small centres of the rosettes are all turquoise, some blue, some green. In the long pendants the blue is artificial with a vitreous glaze much decomposed. The circular pendants have a white centre, which are probably button pearls, cut away from the shell, but not true detached pearls.

Engelbach, R.—*An architect's project from Thebes.* This was a sketch-plan of a chamber, 18×15 cubits, with four pillars; the pillars were to be $1\frac{1}{2} \times 2$ cubits each, and there are tentative divisions of the spacing shown by the marks.

Wainwright, G. A.—*El-Hibeh and Esh Shurafa.* The importance of these two frontier forts of the XXIst dynasty is described. It is supposed that the defence was needed against the west rather than the north; but as the positions are neither of them opposite Herakleopolis, the proposal of that city being the centre of attack seems insufficient; the position of the boundary between Middle Egypt and the Thebaid at different periods is quoted, and the sign of Cusae—a man holding the necks of two animals—is taken as referring to the frontier controlling both north and south. This leads to the proposal that the two long-necked leopards intertwined on a slate palette, record the union of both Egypts by Mena. Similar groups are quoted from Babylonia.

Firth, C. M.—*Excavations at Saqqara.* This article describes the chambers beneath the south wall of the temenos around the Step Pyramid. The various chambers found are described, but without any plan. The row of three recesses with very low relief figures of Zeser are astonishingly perfect. The order of the three figures is the same as those of Semerkhet in the Ist dynasty—the white-crowned, the red-crowned, and the white-crowned king in action. The work is very refined, yet vigorous in detail. The face of the king has much of the Sudany type of Sa-nekht, but the nose is less thick, an improvement due to two generations in Egypt. All the blue glazed tiles appear to have

been carefully removed from the limestone wall, presumably when these chambers were abandoned for the royal burial, and the tiles used elsewhere. One doorway with *zed* signs over it confirms the origin of the form being a bundle of reeds; but Mr. Firth takes the four tops as being due to four steps in the bundling, in order to obtain a longer column, and not to a combination of the four pillars which supported the heavens. Beside this there was a chamber with twenty great alabaster jars about 3 ft. high; also a magazine with a gold-plated canopy like that of Hetep-heres; and there is still an unsearched pit which led to a sepulchre. Why all this was abandoned is only conjectured; it may be that the soil around was unsuited for the mass of a pyramid, and hence the Step Pyramid was built farther north.

We still await some detail of the set of chambers discovered by a passage on the east of the Step Pyramid, which have been briefly reported in public. These have similarly delicate low relief figures, which were later ruled up in squares for copying, and were, therefore, well known.

LAUER, J.-P.—*Quelques Monuments de la III^e^ dynastie.* This paper gives a careful reconstruction, by a competent architect, of the chapels, walls, and colonnades around the Step Pyramid. The chapels had the old house-tomb form found in the Ist dynasty (*Tarkhan* I, XXVIII), with rounded top, bounded by two rectangular block ends; but the chapels retain the columns at the end, which recalls an open end like the festal tents of the present day. The heights of the columns have been carefully worked out from the upward contraction, and agree very nearly with the highest part of the existing building, about 28 ft. The drawings of restoration seem fully justified by the remains and by later models, without any fanciful detail.

CHEVRIER, H.—*Travaux de Karnak,* 1926–27. The gradual extraction of the fine work of the XVIIIth dynasty is continued, from the use of it as mere filling for the coarser building of the XIXth. The immense blocks of alabaster, one of 86 tons of Amenhetep II, the other of 46 tons of Tehutmes IV, were very difficult to move for fear of endangering the obelisks by pressure on the soil, and owing to the surrounding monuments. The continued clearing out of the IIIrd pylon becomes more difficult; as the blocks are closer packed, the walls need staying when the filling is removed; the blocks of Hatshepsut are also beneath the walls, and the central stairway hinders the clearance. The west wall is almost entirely based on blocks of Hatshepsut. In short, two Karnaks are in view; that of the XIXth dynasty, which needs to be taken down and rebuilt, in order to extract the Karnak of the better and earlier date, which will need to be built up again on different ground.

The Akhenaten building has been developed with at least eighteen Osiride pillars on one side of the court—double the number known in any other temple. However much the work caricatures the king, it attracts spoilers, for one afternoon a colossal head was carried off during the siesta, but was afterwards recovered by the police.

The temple of Khensu has been searched, and is full of re-used blocks of Hatshepsut and others, in the foundations. The walls are also of re-worked blocks, so that "one may demand if Rameses III made use of a single block really new." The destruction wrought by the XIXth dynasty is coming home upon them, and most of their works will be taken to pieces to recover the fine things they used up.

In the Hypostyle Hall the foundations prove to be very irregularly designed. In the course of clearing under three columns for new foundations there were obtained a

stele of Sebekhetep IV, a great quantity of carnelian beads (most of which were stolen by the workmen owing to not giving bakhshish), three large blocks of Senusert I of fine work and condition, many blocks of Akhenaten, and a head of a late statue. The column of Taharqa had been taken down, and rebuilt on solid foundation.

Spiegelberg, W.—*Altägyptische gefaltete (plissierte) Leinwandstoffe.* A garment found at Meir, of the XIth dynasty, is in the Cairo Museum. It is of ribbed weaving, like some pieces of the VIth dynasty (*Deshasheh*, p. 32). See also p. 241.

Daressy, G.—*Trace d'une voûte de la III^e dynastie.* The curve for a rounded top of a wall is drawn on a limestone flake, with the length of five offsets stated.

Daressy, G.—*Ostraca de Biban el Molouk.* These illustrate the affairs of the tomb sculptors in the XIXth dynasty, but do not add any fresh fact in the royal history.

Černý, J.—*Ostraca hiératiques inédits de Thèbes.* The first is a day-book of the attendance of workmen, of whom fourteen are named for the right side, and twenty-one for the left side of the tomb. The work was for some king of the XIXth dynasty after Sety II, probably Siptah. The second ostrakon describes a trial for slander against the king, entirely settled by the corporation of tomb-workers. Lastly there is part of a list of rations for the tomb-cutters.

Gunn, B.—*Stela of Apries at Mitrahina.* This was rescued and set up by Major Bagnold, and published more than once. It is here translated and analysed line by line. It recites the decree of the dedication of all adjacent land to Ptah. It is composed with careful, but not faultless, archaism, by a Chatterton of that age.

Lake, K.—*The Serabit Inscriptions.* A brief statement about the removal of the foreign inscriptions.

Syria. IX, 2, 3.

Du Mesnil du Buisson.—*L'ancienne Qatna.* This article continues the account of work in 1927. The tell proves to be a rocky mass, scarped as a glacis of defence, varying as 63^0 or 50^0 according to photographs. This has been later faced by a brick wall, much as the Hyksos fortress of Yehudiyeh had a stone wall in front of the stucco glacis. It seems that the later Hyksos became converted to wall defence here, in place of a glacis. There are very few objects recorded or figured; two scarabs are of Syrian work influenced by Egypt.

Virolleaud, C.—*Les tablettes cunéiformes de Mishrifé-Katna.* These tablets refer to the property in the temple of Nin-egal. The most striking object was a great bull's head of silver weighing 90 minas, probably akin to the bull's head from Crete and that figured in the tomb of Senmut. The objects of *marhashe* are translated "marcassite": this raises the question of the origin of the Latin name marcassite. At first sight, this name for the pale (rhombic) pyrites, in contrast to the deeper coloured mundic (cubic) pyrites, might well come from *marcesco* to languish, or be feeble: but now it seems that it has an oriental origin, like gypsum and many other mineral names.

Parrot, A.—*Fouilles de Baalbek.* Fragments of a great column and sculpture in a position marked on Wood's plan.

CUMONT, F.—*L'autel palmyrénien du Musée du Capitole.* A discussion of the meaning of the sculptures of solar nature.

POIDEBARD, A.—*Milliare provenant de 'Amouda.* Of Caracalla.

POIDEBARD, A.—*Reconnaissance aérienne au Ledja et au Safa.* This air survey was over the region south-east of Damascus. The four air plans show the Roman roads and ancient sites excellently. A great volcano is in this region, and much of it is covered with flows of basalt, which greatly obstructed road-making.

MALLON, A.—*Une nouvelle stèle égyptienne de Beisan.* This is the stele of Mekal, already reported in this Journal, 1928, p. 63.

DUSSAUD, R.—*Observations sur la céramique du 11^e millénaire.* This is an important paper as dealing with the decorated pottery of Hyksos and Philistine ages. First is discussed the tomb I of Katna, concluding that it was before the destruction of the city by the Hittites in 1375. Next is a summary of Macalister's classification at Gezer, which is here accepted. Lastly the incised or prick-pottery of Yehudiyeh is considered. All the sites of this ware are quoted, and M. Dussaud concludes that this pottery is Canaanite, without deciding in favour of Syria or Cyprus as the place of manufacture.

DUNAND, M.—*La sixième campagne des fouilles de Byblos.* In the sanctuary a "stone" basin was found sunk in the pavement, 5 ft. across. It is considered to be the "sea" for he water used in sacrifices. In the foundations of a wall, a relief was found with a figure of a prince of Byblos adoring Ra; the name was effaced, but M. Montet attributes it to the XIVth dynasty. In deep excavation a mass of Egyptian offerings was found, dating as far back as Khosekhemui of the IInd dynasty; a vase of that king has long been in the Beyrut museum unrecognized. A large cylinder of lazuli is not described correctly; it bears a seated deity with a worshipper before and behind, bowing, and also the mummified hawk of Sokar on a stand, with long drapery. The legs and claws of the bird clearly show the nature of the mass. Some bases of columns, found almost on the native rock, seem to belong to the most primitive sanctuary. A further deep clearance has been made through 39 ft. of ruins; about 7 ft. is occupied with pottery of the Old Kingdom, of very varied forms and colours; there is also a great variety of pottery of the Middle Kingdom, and the New Kingdom is marked by a third kind of pottery. No figures are given of any of these.

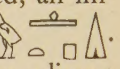
ABEL, M. et BARROIS, A.—*Fouilles ... à Neirab.* This work near Aleppo, on a large cemetery, has produced pottery and amulets of about 1200 to 600 B.C., but nothing that seems of importance.

PIQUET-PELLORCE et MOUTERDE, R.—*Magarataricha.* Describes a site of rock tombs of the Greek and Roman periods in North Syria.

POIDEBARD, A.—*Mission archéologique en Haute-Djezireh.* This expedition traced Roman roads and some fine camps between Circesium and Nisibis, of which good air photographs are given.

Other papers are on Shiite shrines and on Armenian dragon designs.

Revue de l'Égypte ancienne. II, 1–2.

CHASSINAT, E.—*Le mot seten, « roi »*. Regarding the form recently adopted, an important instance is quoted of a sarcophagus (Cairo 28121) which reads  . The usual *bati* title with the bee never has *n* with it, and so the *n* cannot be an adjunct to the *sut*. [This apparently implies that it is part of the radical.] The late sign of the baboon seated holding the *uzat* eye is debated, but without any result on the form of the word *seten*. The examples of the and are quoted to show that they appear equivalent. Such seem the essential conclusions of nineteen pages full of examples.

DARESSY, G.—*Menelaïs.* In this paper, M. Daressy continues his studies of the Delta geography. The Canopic region is one of the least known, owing to the submersion of the low coast and its inaccessibility. The main authority discussed is the statement of Herodotos that the way in the inundation was across the plain from Canopus to Naukratis, passing Arch-andro-polis. This name is well represented by the name *sma-su* the elder or chief man, which was the name of the high priest of the VIIth nome, in which a town was the Ha-sma-su. In the trilingual list Menelaitou = Thbashor, which means the female jackal, in Greek Lukaina, and this name is preserved in Tell Luqin. The position just south of Schedia, now Kariun, agrees well with the requirements. Various less decisive sources on the geography all agree with this position, such as Peutinger's map and the crusading itineraries.

Damanhur as a name had disappeared, but was revived to unify a group of five villages, by the Coptic clerks in the time of Bonaparte. Other sites in Egypt of that name are noted.

The valuable maps here give the contours of the sea bed about the Canopic mouth. The changes of level were probably at the times of great earthquakes, and so stated in 952, while in 1033 and 1202 other severe shocks occurred.

CAVAIGNAC, E.—*La date du tombeau de Pétosiris.* In the time of Petosiris the harvest was in the season of *ăkhet*, and as the harvest about the region of Hermopolis is in April (rather than March), this gives a seasonal date. [The end of *ăkhet* falls on April 1 in 430 B.C.] Hence, it is argued, the tomb cannot be as late as 300 B.C., and the period of destruction under evil *nesutiu*, and repair under *hequ*, should be assigned to the time of Darius II down to 405 and native rulers after that; or else to the time of Cambyses down to 521 and the enlightened Darius I after that. Montet would prefer 460 B.C. for the tomb, but Cavaignac takes 406–397. [All this is on the assumption that the sculptor was strictly following the actual season; but he may have been copying some previous design of a century earlier. If so, the *nesutiu* would be the destructive Persians after the XXXth dynasty (342–332 B.C.), and the *hequ* would be the Macedonian governors. It is also possible that the harvest referred to was of barley, which is earlier than that of wheat.]

MUNIER, H. and PILLET.—*Édifices chrétiens de Karnak.* This describes the planting of three churches amid the temples, dedicated to Apa Stephanos, St. Sergios, and Papnoutios, in the VIIIth century, which were abandoned in the XIIIth. They were in the temple of Khonsu, that of Amenhetep II, and the festal hall of Tehutmes III. There were also convents against the great west pylon, the Hatshepsut pylon and the Heremheb pylon. Many graffiti are also noted.

MALLON, A.—*Nouvelle série d'ostraka* ϵΤΜΟΥΛΟΝ. These are considered to be the earliest Coptic ostraka, of about 600 A.D. The word occurs after receipts for goods, rendered as "complete," or "exactly." May this have been put on at the end to prevent the addition of any further item?

WEILL, R.—*Le roi Neterkhet-Zeser et l'officier Imhotep.* This paper sets out all the variants of titles of the king, and then discusses the inscription on the base of his statue from Saqqarah. This base has, in large signs in the middle, *bati senui* facing *Hor Neter-khet,* and on one side of this the titles of the vezier Imhotep in much smaller signs. The *senui* has been taken as a name of Zeser, but M. Weill proposes that it is a title of Imhotep. [The equality of the size with that of the king's name, and the central position before the statue, seems to preclude such a supposition.]

We must welcome the first number of the Journal of the Czechoslovak Oriental Institute, Prague, edited by Professor Hrozný (agent, Geuthner, Paris), to be issued thrice yearly for 12*s.* or 75*fr.* The articles are in English, French, and German. The Oriental Institute has been founded by the endowment from the President of the Czechoslovak Republic, Professor Masaryk, on his seventieth birthday.

Archiv Orientální. I, 1.

MUSIL, A.—*Personal qualities according to the Rwala Bedouins.* The poetry of this tribe has been collected and is here translated, showing in its expressions the ideals of the people, full of the spirit of the desert.

LEXA, F.—*L'analyse littéraire de l'enseignement d'Amenemopet.* This is a complete translation, followed by analysis of the structure in detail. The author refers to the translation of Prof. Lange, but does not seem to know that of Prof. Griffith (*J.E.A.* 1926, 191), as some readings, which have by now been cleared up, are still misunderstood in this version. In a few cases, there is a turn which seems happier than the Oxford version; in I, 17 "who inscribed islands and new lands" becomes "disposing of the islands recently emerged," i.e. allotting fresh shoals in the Nile. In XVII, 17, speaking of a capacity measure "do not the injustice of (?) Wbn nakht (?)" becomes "do not do injustice in over-filling it." In XVII, 19, 4–7. "Do not receive harvest due from a farmer, and then (?) tie up (?) a document against him, that he may be injured; conspire not with the corn-measurer, nor play the game of 'Arranging the Interior.'" M. Lexa renders this "Do not receive the crop from a peasant (corruptly), and do not write him a receipt when he has committed a fraud. Do not associate with the measurer, nor violate the orders of the royal palace." These renderings seem to seize an apposite sense, and it will be well to take count of M. Lexa's work.

PERTOLD, O.—*Foreign Demons.* This is a study of Sinhalese demon-worship, which overlays the popular religion of Ceylon, like the folk-beliefs in Europe. The demon-masks used in mystery-plays are well known, but the origins are difficult to trace. The demons are mostly said to be of foreign source, and these are divided here into those from foreign mythology and others from various cultural influences.

HROZNÝ, B.—*Naram-sin et ses ennemis d'après un texte hittite.* This list of seventeen kings who were leagued against Naram-sin, appears to be an early and historical record which underlies a more literary and legendary form known in Neo-Assyrian. In it appears Pamba the earliest Hittite king known, the king of Amurri, and places to the east and north of Babylonia.

WESSELSKI, A.—*Einstige Brücken zwischen Orient und Okzident.* This deals with folktales of the middle ages traced through Sicily, India, China, and elsewhere.

Notes: HROZNÝ, B.—*Ein babylonisch-hethitisches Omen.* WINTERNITZ, M.—*Ein neues Buddhismus-Institut.*

Reviews, on Indogermanic nature of Etruscan, and on an early Sinhalese work.

NOTES AND NEWS.

THE splendid tombs which Mr. Woolley has been finding at Ur, he now describes as having been entirely cut into a far older rubbish heap of the town. Working down in this earlier deposit, he has found inscribed tablets of very primitive character, and beneath all was clean solid clay, apparently the basal level. For 8 ft. thickness this continued, bare of all human remains; but below it appeared another civilisation, using flint work, pottery, some of it painted and, at the bottom of all, burnt bricks of a type as yet unknown. At last the real undisturbed ground was reached a few feet above sea level. In three different places this same thick bed of clay was found, so there must have been a long break in the occupation of the plain, during which it was under water, flooded by the muddy streams. This is like the silt deposit at Gerar, which had buried Roman pottery at various levels 50 ft. apart, and yet all deposited within a few centuries. Such a submersion of the country in Iraq gives an historical basis for the Babylonian record of a general flood.

British School of Egyptian Archaeology. The annual exhibition, with the scarabs of the Shepherd Kings and painted Philistine pottery, will be held at University College, Gower Street, from the 8th to the 27th of July. No postal notices will be sent out this year, and the public is asked to remember that the exhibition is always held in July, and to tell all friends who may be interested.

Erratum in last number of this Journal, p. 126. Mr. Dows Dunham the American excavator is Assistant Curator in the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Mass.

In the previous number, 1928, p. 73 is on scale 1:4, and pp. 77, 78, 79, 81 on scale 1:6.